IN THE CLAIMS

Please reconsider the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for monitoring usage of resources allocated to a plurality of nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) assigning to a node a parameter indicative of the usage of said resources;

(b) locally monitoring at the node the usage of said resources;

(c) reporting to a centralized management station of the network when the usage exceeds a predetermined threshold; and

(de) initiating a global poll of resources of at least one other node from the plurality of nodes of the network by the centralized management station in response to reporting from the node~~when said threshold is exceeded~~.

2-3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said parameter is indicative of typical usage of the resources in the node.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said parameter is indicative of a rate of change of usage of the resources in the node.

6. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further including the step of adjusting the usage of the resources at one or more of said nodes.

7. (currently amended) A method for monitoring usage of a resource in nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

(a) monitoring usage of the resource in a node to determine when the usage exceeds a predetermined threshold;

(b) reporting to a management station of the network when the usage exceeds said threshold; and

(c) initiating a poll of resources in the nodes of the network by the management

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station in response to reporting from the node ~~when said threshold is exceeded in at least one node~~.

8. (currently amended) A method for monitoring usage of resources in nodes of a network, comprising the steps of:

asynchronous reporting to a management station of the network of an event when usage of at least one resource of said resources in any of said nodes deviates from a prescribed norm; and

periodic polling of said nodes in accordance with a polling interval, and aperiodic polling of said nodes in response to reporting of said event.

9. (currently amended) A technique for managing a global resource of a network in order to reduce the amount of monitoring related traffic, comprising the steps of:

partitioning the global resource into a plurality of node resources, wherein each node resource is assigned to a separate node of the network;

assigning a budget to each said node resource;

reporting to a management station of the network when a node exceeds the assigned budget as determined using local monitoring of the node resource; and

initiating a poll by the management station of node resource usage by the nodes of the network ~~when~~ in response to receiving reporting from the node wherein the assigned budget is exceeded in at least one node.

10. (currently amended) A technique for managing a global resource of a network in order to reduce the amount of monitoring related traffic, comprising the steps of:

partitioning the global resource into a plurality of node resources, wherein each node resource is assigned to a separate node of the network;

assigning to the node a rate of usage of the node resource;

reporting to a management station of the network when said rate exceeds a pre-

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determined threshold as determined using local monitoring of the node resource; and

initiating a poll by the management station of the node resource usage by the nodes of the network ~~when~~ in response to receiving reporting from the node wherein said rate is exceeded in at least one node.

11. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 8 wherein said nodes are selected from the group consisting of routers, switches, bridges, and firewall devices.

12. (previously presented) The method defined in claim 8 wherein said nodes are selected from the group consisting of servers, hosts, and layer 4-7 switches.

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